

To: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE		Subject: FORMATION OF WISHAW TOWN CENTRE FORUM
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 12th September 1996	Ref: FL/HG/REP.074	

### Introduction

This report seeks the approval and nomination of an elected representative from North Lanarkshire Council for the setting up of a newly established town centre forum for Wishaw. Forums representing many different interests within town centres are already set up in Motherwell, Bellshill Airdrie and Kilsyth and work is ongoing in Coatbridge. At present the only recognised business forum in Wishaw is the Wishaw Business Group which while it is recognised as an important and valued group is not representative of all the retailers and other interested parties in the town.

### Town Centre Initiatives Ltd

Town Centre Initiatives Ltd is a company set up by North Lanarkshire Council with funding from the Council and British Steel (Industry) Ltd. In order that the representative views of all town centre traders and users can be communicated, Town Centre Initiatives Ltd recognises that a new organisation should be formed.

The aim of Town Centre Initiatives Ltd is to manage the traditional town centres of North Lanarkshire in a similar way to the operation of modern shopping centres and that any activity which impacts on the town centre should be co-ordinated through Town Centre Initiatives Ltd. There are a substantial number of business groups and traders forums across North Lanarkshire who are very supportive of the two Town Centre Managers, but no fully representative grouping exists in Wishaw.

### Wishaw Town Centre Forum

It is proposed that the forum should comprise representatives of the following organisations and that it should be served by Town Centre Initiatives Ltd :

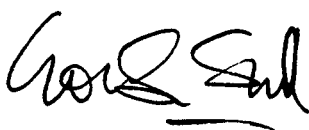
- 1 Elected member from North Lanarkshire Council
- 2 North Lanarkshire Council, Department of Planning, Southern Division
- 3 Two representatives from the existing Wishaw Business Group
- 4 Tesco
- 5 Woolworth
- 6 Financial Sector
- 7 Chamber of Commerce
- 8 Police

- 9 Disability Forum
- 10 Lanarkshire Development Agency
- 11 Town Centre Initiatives Ltd
- 12 Community Council

This group would be a representative consultative body for all activity and projects relating to the town centre and would assist in formulating policy to address the priority issues for Wishaw.

**Recommendation**

That the Committee note the contents of this report and nominates a representative from the Economic Development Committee to participate in a newly established Wishaw Town Centre Forum.



Stanley C Cook  
**Director of Planning and Development**